

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3694

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

SECDEF/WASHDC

USCINCEUR/VAHINGEN

USCINCPAC/HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6236

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN HELICOPRTERS TO PAKISTAN

REF: A. STATE 175081 B. TEHRAN 6145 C. NEW DELHI 10178

SUMMARY. FURTHER INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON IRANIAN HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE FOR PAKISTAN.

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO QUESTIONS PARA 2 STATE REFTEL:
A. ALL HELICOPTERS WERE MANUFACTURED BY AGUSTA OF ITALY AND SOLD DIRECTLY TO GOI. CH-47S ARE MANUFACTURED UNDER LICENSE FROM BOEING-VERTOL AND 205S AND 206S UNDER BELL LICENSE. WE DO NOT HAVE GOI-AGUSTA CONTRACTS ON FILE BUT ASSUME US-AGUSTA LICENSES MEET STANDARD USG REQUIREMENTS. BELIEVE STATE (PM) OR DOD WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO OBTAIN CONTRACT PROVISIONS FROM US COMPANIES THAN WOULD WE FROM GOI.

B. MINAII (MFA US DESK) CALLED IN A/DCM SEPT 3 TO CORRECT FARTASH REMARKS TO CHARGE AUGUST 30 (TEHRAN 6145). HELICOPTERS WERE NOT QTE ON LOAN UNQTE TO PAKISTAN, MINAII EMPHASIZED, BUT WERE THERE CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH IRANIAN CREWS TO PERFORM A QTE VERY SHORT MISSION UNQTE. FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH SHAH AND AT MFA, IT IS CLEAR GOI INTENDS MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT IN PAKISTAN ONLY FOR BRIEF DURATION AS NECESSARY.

C. ARMISH/MAAG CONFIRMS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT HELICOPTERS ARE

INTENDED FOR LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT ROLE, CARRYING MEN AND MATERIAL INTO INACCESSIBLE AREAS. ARMAMENTS ARE PROVIDED FOR DEFENSIVE ACTION, IN EVENT MISSION IS ATTACKED.

D. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PROPER TO SAY IRANIAN HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN ASSIMILATED TO ANY APPRECIABLE EXTENT INTO PAK MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER AIRCRAFT COMMANDERS HAVE TO CHECK WITH HEADQUARTERS IN IRAN BEFORE UNDERTAKING SPECIFIC MISSIONS, BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT EMPLOYMENT OF PLANES IS ON MISSION-BY-MISSION BASIS WITH GROUND RULES FIRMLY LAID DOWN BY IIGF. SHOULD ANY IRANIAN OFFICER BE ASKED BY PAKS TO TAKE ON MISSION HE DEEMED BEYOND HIS AUTHORITY, WE ARE CERTAIN HE WOULD SEEK PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FROM TEHRAN.

E. BEST MAAG INFO IS THAT 206S ARE EQUIPPED WITH TWO MG-3 LOCALLY-ASSEMBLED GERMAN MACHINE GUNS WITH FRENCH SIGHTS. 205S PROBABLY HAVE FOUR OF THESE MACHINE GUNS PLUS TWO 2.75 INCH FFAR SEVEN SHOT ROCKET PODS (M158A1-US MEE). CHINOOKS ARE PROBABLY NOT ARMED.

2. WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED GOI FOR ANSWERS TO REFTTEL QUESTIONS, FOR WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT ANY MORE SPECIFIC OR SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT RESPONSES WOULD BE PROVIDED BY IRANIANS. SHOULD QUESTIONS BE POSED IN WASHINGTON, WE CAN, IF NECESSARY, SOLICIT GOI COMMENTS. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT STATE AND DOD COULD HOLD THE LINE WITH AVAILABLE INFO. TO SUPPLEMENT FOREGOING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WE THINK FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS ALSO RELEVANT:

A. IRANIANS HAVE NOT TRANSFERRED AIRCRAFT TO PAK CONTROL. THEY HAVE SENT PLANES AT PAK REQUEST TO PERFORM LIMITED MISSION WHICH ALSO DIRECTLY SERVES IMPORTANT IRANIAN INTEREST. PLANES ARE ASSISTING IN PRESERVING LAW AND ORDER IN BALUCHISTAN, REGIMN WHICH HAS LONG, ROUGH AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO POLICE FRONTIER. OWING TO TRIBAL AFFINITIES, TROUBLE ON ONE SIDE OF BOUNDARY COULD QUICKLY SPREAD TO OTHER SIDE.

B. IRANIANS ARE SERIOUSLY DISTURBED BY IMPLICATIONS OF TROUBLES IN BALUCHISTAN FOR PAK UNITY. THEY VIEW POTENTIAL BREAKUP OF PAK-

ISTAN AS GREATEST THREAT IRAN NOW FACES TO ITS NATIONAL SECURITY. ACTION WHICH GOI HAS TAKEN IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES REPRESENTS REMARKABLY RESTRAINED RESPONSE TO PERCEIVED THREAT.
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C. INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE EXPLICIT ITS SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED PAK COHESION. SOVIETS AS WELL, WE BELIEVE, HAVE STATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR UNITY OF PAKISTAN. US AND CHINA FULLY BACK GOP ON THIS ISSUE. ONLY GOVERNMENT WITH A POSSIBLY DIFFERENT INTEREST MIGHT BE AFGHANISTAN WHICH HAS HIGHLY SUSPECT MOTIVATION. THUS, IRANIAN ACTION IN SUPPORTING GOP COULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE SAID TO CONTRIBUTE TO TENSIONS IN AREA. QUITE THE CONTRARY, MODERATE, TIMELY AND LIMITED AID TO GOP COULD HEAD OFF POSSIBLE TROUBLES IN FUTURE.

D. FINALLY, AS SWARAN SINGH APTLY POINTED OUT (NEW DELHI 10178), IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN IN BALUCHISTAN IS MATTER QTE BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES UNQTE. PROBLEM OF DISORDER IN BALUCHISTAN DOES NOT DIRECTLY CONCERN THIRD COUNTRIES, BUT, IF NOT PROPERLY HANDLED DURING INCIPIENT STAGE, IT COULD HAVE EFFECT ON

ENTIRE AREA'S PEACE AND STABILITY.

HELMS

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